

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00801 281549Z

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BPUB, EGEN, IZ

SUBJECT: FORTHCOMING U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT ARTICLE ON IRAQ

1. DENNIS MULLIN, REGIONAL EDITOR SUBJECT MAGAZINE
BASED IN BEIRUT DEPARTED BAGHDAD JULY 24 AFTER PACKED
TEN DAY MISSION TO PREPARE "MAJOR" ARTICLE ON IRAQ TO
APPEAR FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST.

2. MULLIN, WHO VISITED USINT AT BEGINNING AND END OF
VISIT, SAID HE WAS TREATED ROYALLY BY GOI. HE OBSERVED
DELIGHT OF GROUP OF VISITING SOCIALIST REPORTERS WITH
WHOM HE WAS FREQUENTLY TRAVELING IN REGARD NEW GOIN POLICY
OF NOT ONLY PICKING UP TAB FOR LODGING BUT OFFERING
NEWMEN TEN DINARS (34 DOLLARS) PER DAY "TO BUY GIFTS
FOR YOUR RELATIVES".

3. SOUGHT BUT DID NOT GET INTERVIEW WITH SADDAM HUSSAIN.
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION SAID THEY WERE TOLD SADDAM "GIVING
NO INTERVIEWS" FOR THE MOMENT. OTHERWISE MULLIN HAD
PRIVATE SESSIONS WITH ALL PARTIES HE REQUESTED
(PLUS OIL AFFAIRS AND FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY ADNAN HAMDANI WHOM HE HAD NOT REQUESTED).
SAID IN MANY WAYS MOST UNEXPECTED EXPERIENCE WAS TWO
AND HALF HOUR QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH PLANNING
MINISTER WHO STARTLED WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST AND
BLOC WRITERS WITH LENGTHY DEFENSE OF IRAQ'S ECONOMIC
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OPENING UP TO WEST. ADDED THAT MINISTER SAID THAT

ALL PREVIOUS IRAQI REGIMES HAD SERIOUSLY NEGLECTED
IRAQI PRIVATE SECTOR BUT GOIN NOW ABOUT TO CARVE
OUT A VITAL AND IMPRESSIVE ROLE FOR IT.
KILLOUGH

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